

VOTE ON JEFFERSON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Jefferson nomination?

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT).

The result was announced—yeas 91, nays 7, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 173 Ex.]

YEAS—91

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Barrasso	Hickenlooper	Risch
Bennet	Hirono	Romney
Blackburn	Hoeven	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Booker	Inhofe	Rubio
Brown	Johnson	Sanders
Burr	Kaine	Sasse
Cantwell	Kelly	Schatz
Capito	Kennedy	Schumer
Cardin	King	Scott (SC)
Casey	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cassidy	Lankford	Shelby
Collins	Leahy	Sinema
Coons	Lee	Smith
Cornyn	Lujan	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Lummis	Sullivan
Cramer	Manchin	Tester
Crapo	Markey	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Toomey
Duckworth	Menendez	Van Hollen
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Ernst	Moran	Warnock
Feinstein	Murkowski	Warren
Fischer	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wicker
Graham	Ossoff	Wyden
Grassley	Padilla	Young
Hagerty	Peters	
Hassan	Portman	

NAYS—7

Boozman	Hawley	Tuberville
Braun	Paul	
Cotton	Scott (FL)	

NOT VOTING—2

Blunt	Carper
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY).

Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The Senator from Washington.

CONFIRMATION OF ALVARO M. BEDOYA

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise tonight to highlight the significance of the vote we took earlier today, and that is to confirm Alvaro Bedoya to be Commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission.

Not only is this a critical moment for us to act and help American consumers, Alvaro Bedoya is the right person to get this job.

The FTC is the first line of defense for consumers. And if a company is lying to its customers about their

products and what they can do or teaming up with competitors to keep prices high, the FTC is the officer on the beat to stop bad actors and to protect those consumers.

Now we need the FTC more than ever. We needed them during the COVID pandemic when scammers were looking to capitalize on the pandemic and stole \$5.9 billion out of the pocket-books of Americans. That is just the amount that was consumer reported. It doesn't include people who never knew they were scammed or were too embarrassed to report their losses.

Just as we needed them then, we need them to continue to help us during the pandemic to stop scammers from selling fake cures and counterfeit masks. We need them to tackle rising prices that threaten all of us today.

Protecting consumers is a bipartisan issue. In the Senate, we worked across the aisle to support the FTC, and Congress pumped the FTC's power at the end of 2020 when we passed the COVID-19 Consumer Protection Act to help root out the promoters of dangerous fake treatments and cures. We also gave the FTC \$30 million in the American Rescue Plan to protect Americans against these scams.

Today, we will take this important step in helping to protect consumers by having Mr. Bedoya fill the last seat on the Federal Trade Commission. He has the right experience to tackle some of the most complicated and pressing issues that we have, that we are facing regarding a variety of issues from privacy to online privacy.

Being the Founding Director of the Center of Privacy and Technology at Georgetown Law where he was a professor, he did amazing work. And prior to joining Georgetown, he served as Chief Counsel of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law.

Many of my colleagues know Mr. Bedoya; and I am glad his nomination finally has passed here in the Senate, and we look forward to working with him.

NOMINATION OF ADMIRAL LINDA L. FAGAN

Mr. President, I also want to speak about the historical significance of another nominee that will be voted on shortly. Tonight, hopefully, in the wrap-up, we will be passing on the nomination of Admiral Linda Fagan to be the next Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard. The Coast Guard serves the American people by safeguarding life at sea, protecting the environment, and ensuring our national security.

The role of Commandant is to lead the Coast Guard's approximately 55,000 Active Duty, reserve, and civilian workers, and approximately 26,000 volunteers in the execution of the Coast Guard's 11 different missions.

From managing vessel traffic, to tackling drug smugglers, to saving lives in rough seas, to protecting endangered marine life, no military service does more with fewer resources. Yet the Coast Guard's mission is only

growing. The Coast Guard faces unprecedented environmental and geopolitical challenges.

Due to the increasing threat of climate change, men and women of the Coast Guard must respond to increasing and frequent severe weather disasters. In the Arctic, where melting ice sheets provide new opportunities for shipping and tourism and transportation, it is very important that the Coast Guard play a major role in making sure that we know how and have the capacity for the United States to lead in icebreaking capacity through the Arctic.

Admiral Fagan assumed the role of Vice Commandant in June of 2021, and she led the largest modernization and shipbuilding effort of the Coast Guard fleet since World War II.

But I want people from the Northwest to know she started her career on the *Polar Star*, a 399-foot icebreaker homeported in Seattle. During her career, she served on all seven continents.

She has held numerous leadership positions, including more than 15 years as a marine inspector and commander for Sector New York, commander for Coast Guard District 1 where she led all Coast Guard operations in New England, and Commander of the Pacific Area in charge of Coast Guard operations across the entire Pacific.

She has an impressive science background, with a bachelor's degree in marine science from the Coast Guard Academy and two master's degrees—one of which is from the University of Washington—in marine affairs.

In addition to her extraordinary qualifications, Admiral Fagan will be the first woman and mother to lead the Coast Guard. She will also be the first woman to lead any branch of our armed services.

Now, more than ever, we must have a strong, tested leader as Commandant. It is clear from her record that Admiral Fagan is the right woman to do her job.

I look forward to working with her to ensure the men and women of the Coast Guard have the tools they need to execute their mission and support their families. And it means continuing to make investments on shore infrastructure, aircraft, and, as I mentioned earlier, our polar icebreakers.

But just as we have fought hard to work with the Coast Guard and their people, it is time to work with Commandant Fagan to continue the hard work to expand paid family leave policies, to improve access to childcare, to champion efforts to retain women and underrepresented minorities serving in the Coast Guard.

Recently, we helped secure \$429 million for the Coast Guard infrastructure in the infrastructure bill and \$120 million of that investment will go to construction of onsite childcare facilities.

As our working mothers and working daughters serve in the Coast Guard, Admiral Fagan knows the realities of a

Coast Guard family. She knows that with 40 percent of the Coast Guard being women, we need to have good policies that will continue to encourage them to stay in the Coast Guard and move up in leadership, just as she has done. I know under her, we will build world-class, state-of-the-art facilities to help all our Coasties and all our Coast families. I know that we will continue to be proud of the mission of the Coast Guard in continuing to have those many, many challenges that they help us deal with every single day.

But tonight, we are doing more than just helping. We are confirming Admiral Fagan. We are sending a strong message to women serving in the Coast Guard. We are sending a strong message to women cadets and the Academy and training people at Cape May. We are sending a strong message to young girls who dream of someday serving in the Coast Guard. We are saying now, that the leader of this organization, that your service matters, your contribution to the Coast Guard and to the country matters, and, yes, you too can be Commandant someday.

I want to thank Admiral Fagan for her tremendous service, and I thank my colleagues for joining me tonight to vote to confirm Admiral Linda Fagan to be Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MOTION TO DISCHARGE

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, pursuant to S. Res. 27, the Committee on Commerce being tied on the question of reporting, I move to discharge the Committee on Commerce from further consideration of the nomination of Mary T. Boyle, of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the provisions of S. Res. 27, there will now be up to 4 hours of debate on the motion, equally divided, between the two leaders or their designees, with no motions, points of order, or amendments in order.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 777, Christopher Joseph Lowman, of Virginia, to be an As-

sistant Secretary of Defense; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be notified immediately of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE COAST GUARD

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicated under title 14 U.S.C., section 2121(d):

To be rear admiral

Michael H. Day

The following named officer for appointment as Deputy Commandant for Operations, a position of importance and responsibility in the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 305:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Peter W. Gautier

The following named officer for appointment as Vice Commandant in the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated pursuant to the authority of title 14, U.S.C., section 304:

To be admiral

Vice Adm. Steven D. Poulin

The following named officer for appointment as Commandant in the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated pursuant to the authority of title 14, U.S.C., section 302:

To be admiral

Adm. Linda L. Fagan

The following named officer for appointment to a position of importance and responsibility in the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 305:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Kevin E. Lunday

The following named officer for appointment to a position of importance and responsibility in the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., section 305:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Andrew J. Tiongson

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MASSACRE AT AHUAS, HONDURAS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, 10 years ago today a joint counternarcotics team of Honduran security agents and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration—DEA—officers opened fire on a water taxi as it approached Ahuas, a small town located in the remote Mosquitia region of northeastern Honduras.

The canoe-like taxi was carrying families traveling between the indigenous Miskito villages that populate the shores of the Patuca River when it was shot at repeatedly by the counternarcotics officers, leaving two women, a teenage boy, and a 21-year-old man dead and several other passengers injured. While the Honduran police announced that a "successful" drug interdiction mission had taken place, journalists and human rights advocates reported the victims were unarmed and had no known links to drug trafficking.

Instead of taking responsibility, assessing their mistakes, and examining their methods and partnerships with Honduran security forces, DEA and State Department officials obstructed U.S. and Honduran investigations of the incident and falsely reported to Members of Congress, including my staff, that the boat's passengers had fired on security forces. They also insisted that the DEA bore no responsibility for the discharging of weapons and had only played a supportive and advisory role during the mission. After the horrifying events of May 11, 2012, the DEA continued joint operations using battlefield tactics in the area that resulted in two more fatal shootings. Following one of these incidents, the Honduran police team leader was reported to have been instructed by his superiors to plant a weapon into evidence.

It was only thanks to a joint Department of Justice and Department of State Inspector General investigation report—published 5 years ago—that Congress was able to learn the truth about Ahuas and the two other fatal shootings. DEA agents had in fact played a central, leading role in the lethal operation. They had ordered a Honduran machine gunner to open fire on the water taxi and never verified whether DEA weapons had been discharged. The DEA's repeated assertions that someone on the boat had fired a weapon were found to not be credible.